

From: Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman

To: Board of Regents

Please see below for an executive overview of the Level II items that are being proposed for your review and action at the September 2018 meeting of the Board of Regents. These items have been submitted by the campuses and reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers of the Montana University System and community colleges. OCHE staff has reviewed the items and provided a short analysis below relying on information submitted by the campuses. For more information and specific details on each item, please see the supporting documentation included on the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee agenda.

Montana State University Billings

M.S. in Adventure Leadership in Health and Recreation

MSU-Billings proposes a Master of Science in Adventure Leadership in Health and Recreation. This program will build on an existing bachelor's degree in Outdoor Adventure Leadership and would prepare graduates for jobs as directors of outdoor, adventure/wilderness and wellness/therapy programs.

UM-Missoula offers a related M.S. in Parks, Tourism and Recreation Management (PTRM), though the UM program has a focus on conservation and forestry, rather than therapy, wellness and adventure leadership. MSU-Billings has consulted with UM during the development of this proposal, and while there is overlap, neither campus feels this will lead to undue competition or duplication.

MSU-Billings envisions this program admitting 15 students per year. Some will be wholly new to the institution, while others will transition from the BS in Outdoor Adventure Leadership along a 3+2 path. To support the program, MSU-Billings will hire a 0.5 FTE clinical faculty certified in therapeutic recreation, a full-time tenure-track faculty instructor, and part-time instructors as needed. MSU-Billings will seek to add a program fee of \$925 per semester for students in this program.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana State University Bozeman

M.A. in Teaching

Montana State University Bozeman proposes an online Master of Arts in Teaching degree. This program will lead to recommendation for initial licensure in K-8 Elementary Education as well as secondary (5-12) content areas such as social studies, math, and science. This provides an opportunity for prospective students who live in Montana and have a bachelor's degree in an area other than education to pursue the teaching profession.

No other MUS campus offers an online program leading to initial education licensure in these areas. MSU will hire additional faculty to develop and teach new curriculum as well as an additional staff position to assist with background checks, compliance, licensure, and supervision of field experiences.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana State University Bozeman

M.S. in Data Science

Montana State University Bozeman proposes a Master of Science in Data Science. This interdisciplinary degree program will draw mostly on the existing course base in three programs: Computer Science, Mathematics, and Statistics. This 30-credit master's degree will serve students with a bachelor's degree with a major in one of these three areas, local professionals with some background in one of these three areas, and individuals from other technical fields seeking a professional degree in the emerging field of Data Science.

Initially, MSU will deliver the M.S. in Data Science using existing faculty and resources. Should enrollment in the program grow as projected, MSU would hire an additional faculty member in year 4. A staff member would be hired to support program coordination should enrollment exceed 30 students.

The board approved a January 2017 proposal by the University of Montana to offer a similar M.S. in Data Science. This overlap is warranted due to the shortage of trained professionals in data and computer science both in Montana and nationally.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

Montana State University Bozeman

Re-establish separately named PhD in Chemical Engineering

Montana State University Bozeman proposes a separately named PhD in Chemical Engineering. MSU offered a standalone PhD in Chemical Engineering, as well as several other engineering disciplines, until 1996. This return to a separately named PhD in Chemical Engineering is to reflect the growth of the doctoral program in chemical engineering and to assign to the program's doctoral graduates the academic title and credential most appropriate for professional practice in this field.

The PhD in Chemical Engineering would not duplicate existing programs in the MUS, nor would it change the program's mission, faculty assignments or reporting lines. There would be no cost attributable to this change.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

University of Montana Missoula

Retitle the Department of Communicative Sciences & Disorders to Speech Language and Hearing Sciences

The University of Montana Missoula proposes to retitle the Department of Communicative Sciences & Disorders to Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. The proposed name will more readily differentiate the department from the Department of Communication Studies and more accurately reflect speech, language, and audiology practice, consistent with other similar departments across the country.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve

University of Montana Missoula

B.S. in Computational Biochemistry

The University of Montana Missoula proposes a Bachelor of Science degree in Computational Biochemistry. This program would prepare students for careers in the growing field of bioinformatics through coursework in computer science, chemistry, biochemistry, and biology. Courses required for this degree are already offered by the university. No additional staff or facilities are required.

Other campuses have expertise and coursework in computational biochemistry, but no similar Bachelor's program exists in the MUS.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve